



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TEXAS MAN INDICTED FOR OBSCENITY, ENTICING A MINOR FOR SEX**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Port Arthur, Texas, man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for attempting to transfer obscene material to a minor and for attempting to entice a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity.

**Joseph R. Gabourel**, 32, of Port Arthur, was charged in a five-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City. Today's indictment replaces a federal criminal complaint that was filed against **Gabourel** on Sept. 26, 2005.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the original criminal complaint, **Gabourel** engaged in a series of online conversations with an undercover police officer, who posed as both a 30-year-old woman and her 14-year-old daughter. During those Internet chat sessions, the affidavit alleges, **Gabourel** masturbated via Web cam and made arrangements to travel from Texas to Missouri in order to have sex with the daughter. **Gabourel** was arrested after he arrived in the Kansas City, Mo., area on Sept. 24, 2005.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Gabourel** used the Internet to attempt to entice a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity between Feb. 10 and Sept. 25, 2005. According to the indictment, **Gabourel** attempted to engage in sexual activity for which he could be charged under Missouri state law with the criminal offense of statutory rape and statutory sodomy.

Counts Two and Three of the federal indictment allege that **Gabourel** used the Internet to attempt to transfer obscene matter to a minor under the age of 16 on Feb. 23 and April 5, 2005, respectively.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Gabourel** traveled across the state line for the purpose of attempting to engage in illicit sexual conduct with another person on Sept. 24,

2005.

Count Five of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Gabourel** to forfeit to the government any property used to commit the alleged offenses, including a cell phone.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Katharine Fincham. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html)